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No. 3

## Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 6, 2021, at 12:30 p.m.

## House of Representatives

TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2021

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR).

### DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
January 5, 2021.

I hereby appoint the Honorable HENRY CUELLAR to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, we approach this new day, in this new year, serving in this new Congress, keenly aware of the challenges all this newness brings. We have new rules and new colleagues, in some cases new offices, and new decisions, each of which threaten to test our resilience and try our patience.

Remind us then, that on each new morning, we are renewed with Your mercies, grounded in Your steadfast love for us, and inspired by the greatness of Your faithfulness to each of us.

We wait on You, the one who has created this day, to refresh not just our strength, but to renew the spirit of our minds, that so fortified, we would yield ourselves to You throughout the day. Transform our attitudes that we would

not allow our debate, our actions, ourselves to be conformed by any other purpose or perspective than Your own. As we encounter the choices that will be laid before us, give us discernment to know and to do Your will—to seek to do what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to us this new day, we give You thanks.

We pray these things in the strength of Your holy name.

Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 5(a)(1)(A) of House Resolution 8, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. PALMER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PALMER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable DEBBIE

WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, January 4, 2021.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,  
*Speaker, House of Representatives,*  
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI: On January 3, 2021, you designated me to administer the oath of office to Representative-elect Alcee L. Hastings of the Twentieth District of the State of Florida pursuant to House Resolution 7, One Hundred Seventeenth Congress.

Under such designation, I have the honor to report that on January 4, 2021, at Fort Lauderdale, Florida, I administered the oath of office to Mr. Hastings. Mr. Hastings took the oath prescribed by 5 U.S.C. 3331. I have delivered two copies of the oath, signed by Mr. Hastings, to the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

Thank you very much.

Very truly yours,

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ,  
*Member of Congress.*

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the administration of the oath to the gentleman from Florida, the whole number of the House is 431.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

# FEDERAL RISK AND AUTHORIZATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2021

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 21) to enhance the innovation, security, and availability of cloud computing products and services used in the Federal Government by establishing the Federal Risk and Authorization Management Program within the General Services Administration and by establishing a risk management, authorization, and continuous monitoring process to enable the Federal Government to leverage cloud computing products and services using a risk-based approach consistent with the Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014 and cloud-based operations, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.  
The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 21

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

## SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Federal Risk and Authorization Management Program Authorization Act of 2021” or the “FedRAMP Authorization Act”.

## SEC. 2. CODIFICATION OF THE FEDRAMP PROGRAM.

(a) AMENDMENT.—Chapter 36 of title 44, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new sections:

### “§ 3607. Federal Risk and Authorization Management Program

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within the General Services Administration the Federal Risk and Authorization Management Program. The Administrator of General Services, in accordance with section 3612, shall establish a governmentwide program that provides the authoritative standardized approach to security assessment and authorization for cloud computing products and services that process unclassified information used by agencies.

“(b) COMPONENTS OF FEDRAMP.—The Joint Authorization Board and the FedRAMP Program Management Office are established as components of FedRAMP.

### “§ 3608. FedRAMP Program Management Office

“(a) GSA DUTIES.—

“(1) ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Administrator of General Services shall—

“(A) determine the categories and characteristics of cloud computing products and services that are within the jurisdiction of FedRAMP and that require a FedRAMP authorization or a FedRAMP provisional authorization;

“(B) develop, coordinate, and implement a process for the FedRAMP Program Management Office, the Joint Authorization Board, and agencies to review security assessments of cloud computing products and services pursuant to subsections (b) and (c) of section 3611, and appropriate oversight of continuous monitoring of cloud computing products and services; and

“(C) ensure the continuous improvement of FedRAMP.

“(2) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Administrator shall oversee the implementation of FedRAMP, including—

“(A) appointing a Program Director to oversee the FedRAMP Program Management Office;

“(B) hiring professional staff as may be necessary for the effective operation of the FedRAMP Program Management Office, and such other activities as are essential to properly perform critical functions;

“(C) entering into interagency agreements to detail personnel on a reimbursable or non-reimbursable basis to assist the FedRAMP Program Management Office and the Joint Authorization Board in discharging the responsibilities of the Office under this section; and

“(D) such other actions as the Administrator may determine necessary to carry out this section.

“(b) DUTIES.—The FedRAMP Program Management Office shall have the following duties:

“(1) Provide guidance to independent assessment organizations, validate the independent assessments, and apply the requirements and guidelines adopted in section 3609(c)(5).

“(2) Oversee and issue guidelines regarding the necessary requirements for accreditation of third-party organizations seeking to be awarded accreditation as independent assessment organizations, including qualifications, roles, and responsibilities of independent assessment organizations.

“(3) Develop templates and other materials to support the Joint Authorization Board and agencies in the authorization of cloud computing products and services to increase the speed, effectiveness, and transparency of the authorization process, consistent with standards defined by the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

“(4) Establish and maintain a public comment process for proposed guidance before the issuance of such guidance by FedRAMP.

“(5) Review any authorization to operate issued by an agency to determine if the authorization meets the requirements and guidelines adopted in section 3609(c)(5).

“(6) Establish frameworks for agencies to use authorization packages processed by the FedRAMP Program Management Office and Joint Authorization Board.

“(7) Coordinate with the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a framework for continuous monitoring under section 3553 and agency reports required under section 3554.

“(8) Establish a centralized and secure repository to collect and share necessary data, including security authorization packages, from the Joint Authorization Board and agencies to enable better sharing and reuse of such packages across agencies.

“(c) EVALUATION OF AUTOMATION PROCEDURES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The FedRAMP Program Management Office shall assess and evaluate available automation capabilities and procedures to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the issuance of FedRAMP authorizations and FedRAMP provisional authorizations, including continuous monitoring of cloud computing products and services.

“(2) MEANS FOR AUTOMATION.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section, and updated annually thereafter, the FedRAMP Program Management Office shall establish a means for the automation of security assessments and reviews.

“(d) METRICS FOR AUTHORIZATION.—The FedRAMP Program Management Office shall establish annual metrics regarding the time and quality of the assessments necessary for completion of a FedRAMP authorization process in a manner that can be consistently tracked over time in conjunction with the periodic testing and evaluation process pur-

suant to section 3554 in a manner that minimizes the agency reporting burden.

## “§ 3609. Joint Authorization Board

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Joint Authorization Board shall consist of cloud computing experts, appointed by the Director in consultation with the Administrator, from each of the following:

“(1) The Department of Defense.

“(2) The Department of Homeland Security.

“(3) The General Services Administration.

“(4) Such other agencies as determined by the Director, in consultation with the Administrator.

“(b) ISSUANCE OF FEDRAMP PROVISIONAL AUTHORIZATIONS.—The Joint Authorization Board shall conduct security assessments of cloud computing products and services and issue FedRAMP provisional authorizations to cloud service providers that meet the requirements and guidelines established in subsection (c)(5).

“(c) DUTIES.—The Joint Authorization Board shall—

“(1) develop and make publicly available on a website, determined by the Administrator, criteria for prioritizing and selecting cloud computing products and services to be assessed by the Joint Authorization Board;

“(2) provide regular updates to applicant cloud service providers on the status of any cloud computing product or service during the assessment and authorization process of the Joint Authorization Board;

“(3) review and validate cloud computing products and services and materials submitted by independent assessment organizations or any documentation determined to be necessary by the Joint Authorization Board to evaluate the system security of a cloud computing product or service;

“(4) in consultation with the FedRAMP Program Management Office, serve as a resource for best practices to accelerate the process for obtaining a FedRAMP authorization or FedRAMP provisional authorization;

“(5) establish requirements and guidelines for security assessments of cloud computing products and services, consistent with standards defined by the National Institute of Standards and Technology, to be used by the Joint Authorization Board and agencies;

“(6) perform such other roles and responsibilities as the Administrator may assign, in consultation with the FedRAMP Program Management Office and members of the Joint Authorization Board; and

“(7) establish metrics and goals for reviews and activities associated with issuing FedRAMP provisional authorizations and provide to the FedRAMP Program Management Office.

“(d) DETERMINATIONS OF DEMAND FOR CLOUD COMPUTING PRODUCTS AND SERVICES.—The Joint Authorization Board shall consult with the Chief Information Officers Council established in section 3603 to establish a process, that shall be made available on a public website, for prioritizing and accepting the cloud computing products and services to be granted a FedRAMP provisional authorization.

“(e) DETAIL OF PERSONNEL.—To assist the Joint Authorization Board in discharging the responsibilities under this section, personnel of agencies may be detailed to the Joint Authorization Board for the performance of duties described under subsection (c).

## “§ 3610. Independent assessment organizations

“(a) REQUIREMENTS FOR ACCREDITATION.—The Joint Authorization Board shall determine the requirements for the accreditation of a third-party organization seeking to be accredited as an independent assessment organization, ensuring adequate implementation of section 3609. Such requirements may